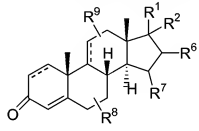
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of the claims which follows replaces any and all prior versions and/or listings of the claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A compound represented by Formula I



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^1 is $-C(O)-R^5$;

R^2 is $-O-C(O)-N(R^3)(R^4)$,

R^3, R^6, and R^7 are each independently selected from the group consisting of

(1) hydrogen, and

(2) C_{1-3}alkyl;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of

(1) C_{1-10}alkyl,

(2) C_{2-6}alkenyl,

(3) aryl, wherein aryl is selected from the group consisting of phenyl and naphthyl,

(4) heteroaryl, wherein the heteroaryl is selected from the group consisting of pyridyl, furanyl, thienyl and imidazoyl,

(5) C_{1-6}alkyl-aryl, wherein aryl is selected from the group consisting of phenyl and naphthyl,

(6) -C_{1-6}alkyl-heteroaryl, wherein the heteroaryl is selected from the group consisting of pyridyl, furanyl, thienyl and imidazoyl,

wherein choices (1) and (2) and the alkyl portion of choices (5) and (6) are optionally mono- di- or tri-substituted with substituents independently selected from the group consisting of -OH, -OCH_3,

-OCF_3, -$COCH_3$, -CO_2CH_3, -$CONH_2$, -CN, -SO_2CH_3, -SO_2CH_3, -SO_2NH_2, F, Cl, Br, and –CF_3 and wherein choices (3) and (4) and the aryl and hereroaryl portion of choices (5) and (6) are optionally mono- or di- substituted with substituents independently selected from the group consisting of -OH, -OCH_3, -OCF_3, -$COCH_3$, -CO_2CH_3, -$CONH_2$, -CN, -SO_2CH_3, -SO_2CH_3, -SO_2NH_2, F, Cl, Br, and –CF_3;

or R3 and R4 are joined so that together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached is formed a ring of 5, 6 , 7 or 8 carbon atoms, the ring being optionally substituted with –C_{1-6} alkyl or –C_{1-6}alkenyl;

R^5 is selected from the group consisting of

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-6}alkyl,
(3) C_{1-6}alkyl, substituted with hydroxy,
(4) C_{1-6}alkyl, mono or di-substituted with halo,
(5) -C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(O)-C_{1-4}alkyl,
(6) -C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(O)-C_{1-4}alkyl, optionally mono or di-substituted with halo, hydroxy or methyl;
(7) -C_{1-6}alkyl-$S(O)_n$-C_{1-4}alkyl, optionally mono or di-substituted with halo, hydroxy or methyl; and
(8) C_{2-6}alkenyl,

wherein n is 0, 1 or 2;

R^8 is halo, and

R^9 is selected from the group consisting of

(1) hydrogen,
(2) halo,
(3) hydroxy,
(4) C_{1-6}alkyl,
(5) C_{2-6}alkenyl, and
(6) phenyl,

wherein choices (4), (5) and (6) are optionally mono- or di- substituted with substituents independently selected from -OH, -OCH_3, -OCF_3, -$COCH_3$, -CO_2CH_3, -$CONH_2$, -CN, -SO_2CH_3, -SO_2CH_3, -SO_2NH_2, F, Cl, Br, and –CF_3.

2. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:
R^6 is hydrogen or methyl.

3. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:
R^3 is hydrogen.

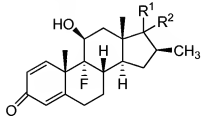
4. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:
R^7 is hydrogen.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:
R^9 is hydroxy.

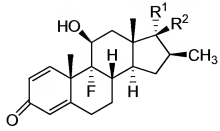
7. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:
R^3 is hydrogen, R^6 is hydrogen or methyl and R^7 is hydrogen.

8. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:



Ia.

9. (Previously Presented) A compound according Formula Ib



Ib

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^1 is –C(O)-R^5;

R^2 is –O-C(O)-N(H) (R^4), and

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of

(1) C_{1-10}alkyl,

(2) C_{2-6}alkenyl,

(3) aryl, wherein aryl is selected from the group consisting of phenyl and naphthyl,

(4) heteroaryl, wherein the heteroaryl is selected from the group consisting of pyridyl, furanyl, thienyl and imidazoyl,

(5) C_{1-6}alkyl-aryl, wherein aryl is selected from the group consisting of phenyl and naphthyl,

(6) -C_{1-6}alkyl-heteroaryl, wherein the heteroaryl is selected from the group consisting of pyridyl, furanyl, thienyl and imidazoyl,

wherein choices (1) and (2) and the alkyl portion of choices (5) and (6) are optionally mono- di- or tri-substituted with substituents independently selected from the group consisting of -OH, -OCH_3, -OCF_3, -$COCH_3$, -CO_2CH_3, -$CONH_2$, -CN, -SO_2CH_3, -SO_2CH_3, -SO_2NH_2, F, Cl, Br, and –CF_3 and wherein choices (3) and (4) and the aryl and hereroaryl portion of choices (5) and (6) are optionally mono- or di- substituted with substituents independently selected from the group consisting of -OH, -OCH_3, -OCF_3, -$COCH_3$, -CO_2CH_3, -$CONH_2$, -CN, -SO_2CH_3, -SO_2CH_3, -SO_2NH_2, F, Cl, Br, and –CF_3;

R^5 is C_{1-6}alkyl, substituted with hydroxy, or C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(O)-C_{1-4}alkyl.

10. (Previously Presented) A compound which is (11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl ethylcarbamate,

(11β,16β)-21-(acetylocy)-9-fluoro-11-hydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl ethylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl (1*R*)-1-phenylethylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-21-(acetyloxy)-9-fluoro-11-hydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl propylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl propylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl isopropylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl allylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-21-(acetyloxy)-9-fluoro-11-hydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl butylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl butylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-21-(acetyloxy)-9-fluoro-11-hydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl sec-butylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl sec-butylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-21-(acetyloxy)-9-fluoro-11-hydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl tert-butylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl tert-butylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-21-(acetyloxy)-9-fluoro-11-hydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl pentylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl pentylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl cyclopentylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxo-pregna-1,4-dien-17-yl 1,1,2,2-tetramethyl-propylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-21-(acetyloxy)-9-fluoro-11-hydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl (1*R*)-1-phenylethylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-21-(acetyloxy)-9-fluoro-11-hydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl (1*S*)-1-phenylethylcarbamate,

(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl (1*S*)-1-phenylethylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl (1*S*)-1-(methoxycarbonyl)-ethylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl phenylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl cyclohexylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl 1-adamantylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl 2-(1-adamantyl)-1,1-dimethylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl dicyclopropylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl spiro[2.4]hept-1-ylmethylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl 1,1-dimethylbutylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl 1-methylbutylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl 1,3-dimethylbutylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl isopentylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl 3,3-dimethylbutylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl *tert*-pentylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl neopentylcarbamate,
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl 1,2-dimethylpropylcarbamate, or
(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl propylcarbamate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12-16. (Canceled)